

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5-16 have been amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-16 are currently pending.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and receipt of the priority document.

Specification

The Abstract has been amended as required by the Examiner.

35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been amended to be in better form.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 5-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Internet Scanner User Guide (ISS). This rejection is traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to a method for evaluating security applied to a system which allows a user to select whether certain security countermeasures should be applied to a selected component of the system. The present

invention also performs a step of evaluating an overall state of security of the system based on information as to whether any security countermeasures should be applied to each component of the system. As such, the present invention permits a user to evaluate the overall state of the system at a higher level, and in particular as to whether or not certain countermeasures are performed in the system. For example, the present invention can evaluate whether countermeasures for physical security, such as management of individuals' entering into and leaving from a particular site. In addition, the present invention evaluates not only security countermeasures in an existing system but also of presently nonexistent systems that are being planned in order to determine whether the security countermeasures for that system would be adequate.

On the other hand, the Internet Scanner User Guide (ISS) discloses the steps of accepting the selection of a network and a device to be scanned from a user through a graphic user interface, the displaying of a scanned result performed in the device based on the scanning of the device and allowing the user to select whether to fix or to patch vulnerability of the displayed scan result. However, ISS merely discloses whether to fix or patch the scanned vulnerability as opposed to allowing the user to select whether security countermeasures

should be applied to a selected component. In addition, ISS clearly does not disclose the claimed limitation of evaluating a state of security of the system based on information as to whether any security countermeasures should be applied to each component. As disclosed in the "Information about Vulnerabilities" subheading under the "What Internet Scanner does" heading on page 3, the "internet scanner provides detailed information about each vulnerability, including the vulnerable host, description, and corrective actions". As such, the purpose of the present invention is completely different from the purpose disclosed by ISS.

Applicants provide the following example to illustrate the differences between the present invention and ISS. If the locking of a house door was considered, the present invention would require determining whether any countermeasures should be applied including determining whether to provide a door locking system to the house and whether to lock the door. On the other hand, the test of vulnerability disclosed by ISS is merely to check the strength of the locking system or to determine if there is a failure in the locking system. As such, unlike the presently claimed invention, ISS does not disclose that, in order to counter the threat posed, one should considers countermeasures for physical security and operational management of the overall system. Individual

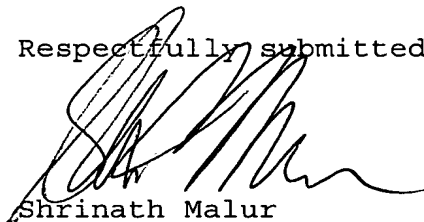
control of a particular network device does not provide for operational management of the system.

In addition, ISS tests are only performed on actual devices to determine their vulnerability and not applied to systems that are not yet existing and need to be evaluated for countermeasures. As such, it is submitted that the pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Shrinath Malur
Registration No. 34,663
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Rd., Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: May 27, 2004